GOTTLIEB AND ELIZABETH MUELLER KOHLER

Gottlieb Kohler, son of Melchior Kohler and Barbara Riedwyl was born December 4, 1845 at Meiringen, Switzerland. Elizabeth Mueller, daughter of Samuel Edward Mueller and Anna Dietrich, was born September 25, 1847, at Koeniz, Switzerland. Died 1929 in Midway.

As a young man, Gottlieb studied medicine until his father met with an accident which left him deaf and dumb. Gottlieb mastered the deaf and dumb language and became a shoemaker, working with his father. It was while in the shoe business,

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Shoemaker
Linguist – "sign"
Musician
Studied Medicine
Dentist

Gottlieb met and married Elizabeth, a young tailoress, on November 17, 1869 in the Protestant Church at Thun, Switzerland, of which they were both members.

Their first home was with Gottlieb's father, his mother having died. Later while living with Elizabeth's aunt, two LDS missionaries found Elizabeth and Gottlieb. After a great deal of investigation, Gottlieb and the three oldest children were baptized on October 7, 1882 by John Hafen. Because of severe ridicule of friends and family, Elizabeth was not easily convinced regarding Mormonism. However, the following year, on April 7, 1883, she was baptized by John Stucki.

Soon the spirit of gathering to Zion entered their hearts. Together, the family worked hard making and selling shoes to obtain money for their trip to America. In the spring of 1884 the oldest boy Emil, then 12, and Bertha of eight years, were sent to Utah with the Elders, to be followed in two years by the rest of the family.

They arrived in Salt Lake City on June 7, 1886 where after two years of separation, they were reunited with Emil and Bertha. The first night was spent in the old Tithing Office, sleeping on the floor. John Buhler met them the following morning and took them to Midway to make their home.

Conditions were not always good in their new home. Many hardships and trials came to test their faith. Four more children were added to the family, making 13 children for the parents to rear to adulthood.

Gottlieb was very active in organizing the Swiss people who built their own hall and met regularly where the gospel could be taught in their native tongue. He was a good musician, played the accordion and conducted the singing. Under an appointment of the Town Board, Gottlieb became the town doctor and dentist and for years

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JOHN AND MARY LUCINDA COLE McDONALD

John McDonald and his wife, Mary Lucinda Cole, were part of the history and development of Wasatch County. John arrived in Nauvoo from Ireland with his parents, brothers and sisters in 1844, when he was 11 years old. During the years of martyrdom and persecution, John worked on the Nauvoo Temple, receiving only half pay, in tithing credit, because he was so young. He saw the City Beautiful pillaged and was among those driven out by the mobs.

When his father, James McDonald, died of cholera on the plains, as eldest son, John assumed what he could of his widowed mother's burden. He had helped to acquire the cattle they were bringing west with them, and he understood how to care for them. Horses, cattle and farming were his lifelong vocation.

During the Walker War, John served with distinction with his unit from Springville. In 1856 he was called to go east and help bring in the suffering handcart companies. On his return in December of that year he was married at Springville, Utah, to Mary Lucinda Cole.

Three months later there was another call for the newly married couple to answer. Brigham Young issued a call for all saints to join in a United Order. According to a receipt issued to John on February 3, 1857, the property he consecrated to the Lord included one acre of ground, farm land, three horses, two cows, one yearling, one wagon, one plow, 20 bushels of wheat, four bushels of oats and two days of hay, along with one bed, for a total value of $459.

Still another call for public service came that same year. John was asked to go with the "YX" freighting company to build roads and bridges for the pioneer trail. This he did until he was honorably released. Then, following this assignment, John was asked to go back to the Missouri River to carry mail. He froze his feet and suffered many hardships on this mission, but his faith and courage remained undaunted.

When the United Order experiment failed, what was left of John's property was deeded back to him. He and his young wife decided to start a new home in the Provo River Valley. They arrived at Heber City with their babies in March, 1861. Through industrious efforts and wise management, they prospered. Thirteen children were born to them, but Mary Lucinda died at the stillborn birth of the last one on February 16, 1882. Mother and child were buried together in Heber City Cemetery.

Her forty-two years of life had been eventful and useful. She was born February 26, 1840, in Kirtland, Ohio. Her parents, Hugh Haggerty Cole and Susannah Winans, were pioneer members of the Church in Kirtland. As a little girl, Lucinda moved with her family to Iowa, where preparations were made to cross the plains. The Coles and the McDonalds were members of the Aaron Johnson company. Her later childhood was spent in Springville, Utah, where she learned to speak the Indian language. This ability was a valuable asset in the new community of Heber City.

Following her death, John struggled on to rear his motherless children, and lived to see them all married and well established. John was baptized in Ireland in 1842, ordained an Elder by Heber C. Kimball in 1857, ordained a High Priest by David Wood on February 10, 1866, set apart as a High Councilor in 1888, and ordained a Patriarch by Francis M. Lyman on February 11, 1901. He served two terms as commissioner in Wasatch County. He died in Heber on December 27, 1910.

His children and their dates of birth included: Mary Ann McDonald, November 17, 1857 (married David Fisher); John Henry, November 14, 1859 (died August 4, 1869); Sarah Jane, January 23, 1862 (married William Buys); Susannah Orilla, December 15, 1864 (died April 7, 1878); James Hugh, January 21, 1866 (married Eva Cluff); Joseph Smith, January 30, 1868 (married Mary Elizabeth Rasband); Andrew, January 16, 1870 (married Elizabeth Thatcher); Lydia Matilda, January 21, 1872 (died February 3, 1872); David Lorenzo, March 12, 1873 (married Sylvia Eggerson, Pauline Violet Jackson); Emma Verona, May 22, 1875 (married Charles Cluff); Eva Lucinda, September 7, 1877 (married Moroni Morris); and John William, November 11, 1879 (married Edna Nelson).

ALVA M. MURDOCK

Alva Moroni Murdock was born April 26, 1857, in Carson Valley, Nevada. His parents, Joseph Stacy Murdock and Elizabeth Hunter Murdock, had been sent to Carson Valley on a colonizing mission by Brigham Young in 1856.

In 1857, when the crops were ready to harvest, they were called back to Salt Lake by Brigham Young because of the invasion of Johnston's army, and were told to bring ammunition from California.

Alva's father had to sell his ranch and crops as they stood, ready to harvest, to some Texans on their way to the California goldfields for horses and wagons to make the return journey to Utah.

Ten years of hard pioneering followed for the Murdock family, first in American Fork and later in Heber City, where Alva's father, Joseph Stacy Murdock, was the first bishop and also first representative to the State Legislature from Wasatch County. There always was progress, though. A stone home was built in Heber; children were sent to school, and life became somewhat easier.

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However, Joseph Murdock's organizational ability was too valuable to the Church to allow him to enjoy the comparative ease and security of the then well-established Heber City, and once more came the call to assist in colonizing, this time in southern Nevada in what is known as the Muddy Mission. So, in 1867, the Murdock family moved to the south, settling near the town of Moapa on the Muddy River.

The settlers had paid their taxes to Utah and to Arizona, only to find they were in Nevada, where more taxes were demanded. So, after a visit from Brigham Young, whom Alva says he remembers clearly, the project was abandoned for the time being and homes, orchards and 1,000 bushels of wheat were left behind.

The Murdock children were very happy to leave and when the father looked back as they came to a rise in the ground, he could see smoke rising. When asked about it, Alva admitted he had lighted the match, so they could not decide to turn back.

It was the trip to and from the Muddy Mission and the life there that is given credit for one of the outstanding habits of Alva's life. Because of the heat and mosquitoes, most of the travel was accomplished at night. Alva drove a yoke of oxen almost the entire way, although he was just a mere lad.

In 1870, when they reached Provo, the father, knowing that there were many mouths to feed, succeeded in securing the first government contract for carrying mail from Provo, by way of Heber and Kamas to Echo. Here the boys were put to work in relays with horses.

Interest in livestock became the deciding factor in Alva's destiny and was responsible for his entry into the Uintah Basin. He and Jim Clyde undertook to ride herd on a thousand head of cattle belonging to Heber residents, grazing them in the broad expanse of Strawberry Valley, now under the waters of Strawberry Reservoir. This herd was known as the Co-op herd and gave the name to Co-op Creek, which was a favorite camping spot for the herders.

In about 1875, when the feed in Strawberry Valley seemed inadequate for the cattle, the ranchers wanted them to graze. Alva and Jim Clyde decided to investigate the basin, where the season was a little longer, and they rode along the Strawberry River and in Sam's and Slabb Canyons.

Feed in these canyons was then luxuriant, according to Alva, and the men thought that if they just owned these two canyons they would have everything any cattleman might desire. Here was born an ambition which years later was realized. Not content even with this, the two young men went on down into the basin, prospecting the entire region, much of which was held as an Indian reservation.

The final result was the leasing of the entire basin by Alva, Jim Clyde and a third man, Charles Carter, for $1,000 a year, from the Indian agent, with the stipulation that they confine their herd to cattle, barring horses and sheep which might get mixed with stock belonging to the Indians. The following year their herd increased to 3,000 head of cattle.

When he was just a little over 20, Alva married Josephine Nicol, born January 25, 1859, in Salt Lake City, Utah, daughter of Thomas and Johanna Handberg Nicol.

Alva and his wife were married in Salt Lake City on June 24, 1877, but made their home in Heber, and he recalls he was denied much of the pleasure of the usual young groom starting his home. Just three weeks after his marriage he suddenly was faced with the situation of a man whom he had hired to take care of his cattle in the basin, demanding more money, and rather than pay the increase, Alva took over the horse, saddle and provisions he had provided for the herder and went to the basin himself. Since there was no one to relieve him, he stayed there with the cattle, eventually finding himself snowed in. It was nine months before he was able to return the next spring to his bride.

Time for the next years was divided between the basin and Heber, though Alva kept his family in Heber some time. At Heber his energy took him to such occupations as timbering and saw milling.

In the meantime, Alva was becoming a man of importance in Heber, where he was constantly interested in civic improvement. Among other responsible positions there was that of early school trustee, and his interest in education never diminished. Ventures there included a livery stable business and a stage line to Park City. And when the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad built a branch line into Heber in 1899, it broadened the market for livestock and he took a great many selling trips East, besides supplying Park City markets with beef.

His family, too, was increasing. His first daughter, Hannah Elizabeth, was born October 30, 1878, and died a year later. Ida Josephine, now Mrs. Oscar A. Kirkham, was born July 10, 1880, followed by two other daughters, Dora and Vern.

It was in 1885, when Vern was still a little girl, that Alva decided to establish a trading post at Whiterocks and took his wife and three daughters there to live. While he operated the trading post, his wife ran a boarding house for officials of the government agency. This took much of Mrs. Murdock's time and sometimes for the entire day little Vern would be taken over by the Indians.

The keen understanding of the Indians by Joseph Stacy Murdock—his father—seemed to have been passed on to the son Alva, for he stood in good stead both in his trading with the Indians and in his many associations with them. The Indians learned to consider him a friend and adviser, and held him in so much respect that in all the years he has run cattle in the basin it has never been proven that any Indian ever killed or stole a Murdock animal. He spoke and understood their language and they regarded each other as friends.

Then came the move to the basin to establish his permanent home when it was thrown open to homesteaders in 1905. By this time he was well known and established, both in Heber and in the basin, among whites and Indians alike. He was a man of resources and accomplishments, able to see and grasp opportunities and with the resourcefulness to carry through his projects.

On the day before opening, Alva, by special permit, was allowed to come in to establish a store and other accommodations to provide for the expected settlers. He brought in two wagons and a big circus tent, which he set up beside an old cabin which he bought from an Indian, Segusie Jack. In the cabin he kept his merchandise

→ over

while the tent became a store, boarding house and community center for homesteaders who flocked in to select their lands. Later a huge bonfire was built near the tent, around which were gathered 52 men, and Dora, his daughter, the only woman on the townsite. Grant was the only boy on the campsite. In honor of the occasion the crowd voted to call the settlement Dora, the name it carried for some time or until the post office was established under the name Theodore.

Owning the home ranch had been a dream of the family for years, and when it was finally secured on the Strawberry River, Alva and Josephine made a trip to Salt Lake and had planned a trip to the coast to improve her health. This was not to be, however, and in three weeks she was dead. Her passing occurred February 3, 1913, at the home of her son-in-law, Oscar A. Kirkham.

Alva then put all his energy into building up the ranch to make it a real home for his children and their friends. He had three summer homes built for Ida, Dora and Vern and their families, and a place of fun and entertainment in the large ranch house for his younger family, along with the work that necessarily had to be done.

After World War I, a financial crash came to Alva, as it did to many others, and he also realized that a home was not a home without a mother. So, in October, 1915, he married Ivy Stephens Lidell, and on April 7, 1919, his son, Willard S., was born.

In the meantime, many of his large family had been married and were living in homes of their own, some in the basin and others scattered about Utah and other states.

Of his 11 children, two died in infancy, and Merle and Wells as adults, Dora Ryan passing away in December, 1958. The others are Mrs. Oscar A. Kirkham, Salt Lake; Mrs. R. S. Lusty and Grant Murdock, Duchesne; Mrs. Hazel M. Murray, Willits, California; Mrs. J. C. Hansen, Helper, Utah; Ralph C. Murdock, Whitman, Nebraska; and Willard S. Murdock, Roosevelt, Utah.

Although Alva's health was failing, he was still active in civic and home affairs, and rode his favorite horse daily. At a meeting on February 2, 1944, he was elected general chairman for the Duchesne County Fair Committee. He had also been president of the Chamber of Commerce and the year before had been chairman of the Duchesne County Stampede.

However, his family insisted he should seek medical aid in Salt Lake City, and he underwent an operation. He later was taken to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Oscar A. Kirkham, where all thought he was improving until the morning of November 1, 1944. He realized the end was near and asked Oscar to say a prayer, and a great spirit passed on.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

Wallsburg and Its Founder

Communities that grew up in western frontier lands often were christened with names of outstanding people who influenced the development of the area. Many cities, towns and villages can trace their names to a famous explorer, a courageous colonizer, perhaps a military officer or even some prominent political or religious leader.

However, few communities have a more illustrious namesake than does Wallsburg, a settlement of about 300 persons located 14 miles south of Heber City.

The town is named for William Madison Wall, a native of North Carolina, who, during his lifetime, was an explorer, colonizer, military officer, political official and Church leader.

He was born in Rockingham County, North Carolina, Sept. 30, 1821, a son of Isaac and Nancy Wall, and joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the age of 21. He lived with the saints in Nauvoo, Ill., until their exodus in 1846-47 and came to the Utah Territory in 1850 as a captain of fifty people in the seventh pioneer company. He also assisted in organizing the Mormon Battalion.

When he arrived in the new territory, Wall made his way to Provo where he established a home. He was soon appointed Bishop of the Provo Fourth Ward and served from 1852 to 1854. He was captain of a cavalry company in the territorial militia and served a number of military missions. Then in 1856 he was called by the Church to serve as a missionary to Australia where he was president of the New South Wales Conference.

When he returned from Australia, Elder Wall was placed in charge of a company of Mormon immigrants. As they arrived in California they found animosity toward the Church at a fever pitch. A train of immigrants bound for California had been killed in southern California in what became known as the Mountain Meadows Massacre.

When the Mormons were discovered by some of the residents in San Pedro, California, where Elder Wall and his company had landed, mob violence broke out. Even though the Mormons had just arrived that day, the angered citizens demanded the life of Elder Wall.

Twice during the night the mobs tried to break into his hotel room to kill him. Elder Wall was unarmed, so he tore a wooden roller from his bed and in a calm voice told the angered people outside the door that he knew the door was flimsy and they could easily break in. How-

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and that was t wish to kill vere any such they had re-

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evening when W. M. Wall, Marshal of Provo, was walking through the streets of that city a ball was shot through his hat and grazed his head and knocked him down."

Wall was also one of the most skillful Indian negotiators among the Mormons and frequently served assignments for President Brigham Young in pacifying the Indians. Many of his dealings with the Indians are discussed in detail in Chapter 7.

"Provo" Valley was discovered early in the 1850's by three men who climbed the Wasatch Range from Big Cottonwood canyon and descended the western slopes of the valley. Their report created much interest and ways were immediately sought to get into the valley. By 1855 or '56 the pioneers began taking their cattle in via an Indian trail that began near Pleasant Grove, up Grove Creek over the northwest end of Timpanogos, down Bear canyon to the left fork of American Fork canyon, up this canyon to the summit and thence down into the Midway area.

On the 19th of January 1855 the State Legislature incorporated the Provo Canyon Road Co. which authorized Aaron Johnson, Thomas S. Williams, Evan M. Green and William Wall to build a road up Provo Canyon. Very little was done at this time, however. In June of 1856 William M. Wall was called on a mission to serve in Australia. He returned late in 1857, having been called home because of the Johnston's Army affair. Early in 1858, he and others began talking about the "road" again and on June 8, 1858 Brigham Young called a meeting at Provo, organized a new Company and work was started immediately. The road was to go from Provo through Provo Canyon to the Kamas Bench and thence on to the "Mormon Trail" in Weber Canyon. $19,000.00 was allocated for the cost of the road, much of which was paid for in "Deseret Script."

A large bridge in Provo Canyon was completed about the 13th of October and by the 12th of Nov. 1858 the road was near enough completed that "100 teamsters started for the United States over the new road." (Deseret News, Nov. 12, 1858).

The first group of settlers to go into the valley over the new road were George Washington Bean, William Meeks, Aaron Daniels and William Wall. The Beans and Walls settled near the neck of the canyon in the south end of the valley, where they had established their headquarters during the construction of the road. Daniels and Meeks went further north.

George Washington Bean, a surveyor and Indian interpreter, had with his brother, James, been very active in getting the new road built. George W. Bean was the first to take up ground in Round Valley and in the fall of 1860 he sold his holdings in Provo Valley to his father-in-law, William M. Wall, so he could spend his entire efforts improving his holdings in Round Valley. He mentions in his writings about having to go by way of Salt Lake City and Park City to get to their ranch because of the floods of 1862. By 1864 he was no longer in Round Valley.